



UNION OF CONCERNED SCIENTISTS

May 10, 1978

Mr. W. H. Pennington, Director  
Office of NEPA Coordinations  
U.S. Department of Energy  
Mail Station E201  
Washington, D.C. 20545

Dear Mr. Pennington:

This letter and enclosed material constitutes notification of intent to participate in the Public Hearing, scheduled for 24 May 1978 in Denver, in connection with the Environmental Impact Statement ERDA-1545-D, Rocky Flats Plant Site.

I will appear on behalf of the Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS), a Cambridge, Mass. based coalition of scientists, engineers and other professionals interested in the study and understanding of the technologies we employ in our society and the identification and control of possible unwanted side effects. We have been involved in some of the problems raised by the on-going nuclear arms competition.

Other witnesses on behalf of our group are expected to include:

Daniel Ford                      Adm. Gene LaRocque (possible)  
George Rathjens

In addition, Mr. Anthony Roisman, who has already been in touch with you, will wish to speak briefly on behalf of UCS and NRDC.

We request ten minutes for Mr. Ford and fifteen minutes each for Dr. Rathjens and me.

(17) (18)  
Summaries of my remarks and Mr. Ford's are enclosed. Dr. Rathjens' will reach you under separate cover.

Very sincerely,

*Henry W. Kendall*

Henry W. Kendall

HWK:dj  
Encls.

Best Available Copy

Summary of Remarks: Public Hearing on EIS, Rocky Flats

Military expenditures have a profound effect, both directly and indirectly, on the U.S. economy. In the short run, these expenditures can provide substantial economic stimulus. The economic recovery during World War II is an obvious case in point; the growth of the aerospace industry and ancillary high technology industries in the 1950s and 60s is another well-known example. In the long run, however, continued large scale expenditures on military equipment and services seriously jeopardizes the civilian economy in the U.S. In particular, since weapons development involves the application of so much advanced technology, the country's finite pool of competent scientists and engineers is seriously drained by military programs. The poor performance of civilian industries in recent years in the rate of growth of output per man hour, i.e., productivity, is a reflection of the diversion of high technology resources from the civilian to the military sector. This directly affects the prospects for improved living standards, it directly weakens the U.S. in international competitiveness (especially since Japan and West Germany eschew large military programs), and it directly introduces an inflationary bias into the U.S. economy since improved productivity is the only way of preventing increasing wages from increasing the overall cost of goods and services.

The steady progress of the U.S. economy in the decades after World War II has now ended. The economy is beset by a combination of unexpected problems. The desirability of continued expansion of military programs should be seriously reconsidered in light of the changed, surprisingly unpleasant, economic realities now facing the United States.

Daniel F. Ford

Summary of Remarks: Public Hearing on EIS, Rocky Flats

The United States, the Soviet Union, and too a lesser extent several other nations, have been engaged for decades in a nuclear arms competition. This competition has resulted in immense inventories of nuclear weapons and of relatively invulnerable, long range, accurate delivery systems. The arsenals of the two major contestants now contain in excess of the equivalent of 20 thousand million tons of TNT. Because there is presently no defense against nuclear tipped missiles the peace is kept through reliance on mutual deterrence, the expectation that a surprise attack would surely induce such a shattering response that any potential assailant is discouraged by the prospective damage. Yet new and more deadly nuclear systems are in the wings - new nuclear explosives, MX missile, and others which will make the present state of deterrence increasingly fragile and measurably increase the risk of war. Because an all-out nuclear war would be a social, political, and environmental catastrophe with effects reaching far beyond the target nations and because many thoughtful professionals, some with extensive experience with weapons, weapons systems, and weapons effects, are troubled that the arms race can lead us closer to such an event it is now critically important that the ramifications of any expanded weapons production be fully explored by the U.S. Government, in public, as a prelude and aid to widespread public debate

I can speak on behalf of over 12,000 U.S. scientists on the hazards of the on-going nuclear arms race and on some proposed means of controlling it. There is hardly a more critical issue facing our society and each opportunity to extend the public discussion must be seized.

Henry W. Kendall